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# Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /092 W
----------130739 210200Z /75
R 201636Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0131
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONGEN HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONROVIA 5234

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, CH, PINR, XA, LI
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S STATE VISIT TO CHINA, JULY 19 - 29

REF: MONROVIA A-25, JUNE 9, 1978

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT TOLBERT CONSIDERS HIS STATE VISIT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA JULY 19 -29 OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE TO LIBERIA, SYMBOLIZING THE ABILITY OF THE GOL TO ENTER INTO CLOSE AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS WITH A COMMUNIST POWER AND BRINGING TO LIBERIA SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS IN THE FORM OF A TEN-YEAR 23.5 MILLION DOLLAR INTEREST-FREE LOAN. THE VISIT ALSO HAS BEEN USEFUL TO THE PRESIDENT IN ENHANCING HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOL HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT COOPERATION WITH THE PRC FOR DEVELOPMENTAL PURPOSES IN NO WISE
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IMPLIES IDEOLOGICAL AFFINITY WITH PEKING. END SUMMARY.

1. THE "HISTORIC STATE VISIT" BY PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. TOLBERT, JR. TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, JUNE 19 - 29, IS CONSIDERED A MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT BY THE TOLBERT ADMINISTRATION. THE LEGISLATURE CONGRATULATED THE PRESIDENT WHOM IT CALLED "THE GREATEST PEACEMAKER OF

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OUR TIME." VICE PRESIDENT WARNER PUBLICLY STATED THAT
THE PRESIDENT SHOULD "BE PROUD OF HIS ROLE IN PROJECTING
THE IMAGE OF LIBERIA." ON JULY 5, PARAMOUNT CHIEF
SHEIKU S. VAINGA OF THE TEWOR CHIEFDOM, WHO ACCOMPANIED THE
PRESIDENT TO CHINA, LED A DELEGATION OF HIS PEOPLE TO
THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICES TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR THE "LAUD-
ABLE ACHIEVEMENTS" MADE ON THIS TRIP. ON JULY 6, SENATOR
W.V.S. TUBMAN, JR., CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, WHO ALSO ACCOMPANIED THE PRESIDENT,
EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO TOLBERT AT A LUNCHEON OF MARYLAND
COUNTY LEGISLATORS AND COMMENTED ON THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S
CRITICISM OF "HEGEMONISM", A CRITICISM HE SAID WAS BASED
ON THE CHINESE VIEW THAT THE PEOPLE OF A COUNTRY MUST
DETERMINE AND DIRECT ITS OWN DESTINY. AN EDITORIAL IN
THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, JULY 2, STATED THAT THE TRIP TO CHINA
HAS CAUSED "A NEW SURGE OF PATRIOTIC FERVOUR" AND THAT
PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAD ACHIEVED A "SPLENDID PERFORMANCE"
IN ARTICULATING THE LIBERIAN STAND AGAINST "UNWHOLESOME
FOREIGN MACHINATIONS OR MANEUVERS" IN AFRICA DURING HIS
STAY IN CHINA.

2. BASIC TO THE WARM RESPONSE TO THE TOLBERT VISIT WAS
HIS SUCCESS IN OBTAINING FROM THE PRC A $23.5
MILLION INTEREST-FREE LOAN ("WITHOUT ANY STRINGS ATTACHED",
AS THIS AGREEMENT WORDS IT) TO BE DISBURSED FROM 1978 TO
1985, AND TO BE REPAID FROM 1990 TO 2000 WITH EITHER
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LIBERIAN EXPORTS OR CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES. IF THERE ARE
DIFFICULTIES IN REPAYMENT, THE REPAYMENT PERIOD MAY BE
EXTENDED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT. THE LOAN IS TO BE USED TO
COVER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIC PROJECTS, INCLUDING
COSTS OF STUDIES, DESIGNS, EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS AND
CONSTRUCTION MACHINES SUPPLIES BY THE PRC. LOCAL EXPENSES
INCURRED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS ARE TO BE MET
BY THE GOL.

3. PROJECTS COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT INCLUDE
(A) A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON PADDY RICE CULTIVATION
ALONG THE ST. JOHN, ST. PAUL AND LOFA RIVERS;
(B) FEASIBILITY STUDIES FOR A FURNITURE
FACTORY, IMPROVED SEED STATIONS AND VEGETABLE
GROWING CENTERS;
(C) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN REPAIRING THE FOYA
WATER CONSERVANCY PROJECT, EXPANDING THE
ZIEH-TOWN WATER CONSERVANCY PROJECT, AND REPAIRING THE
JUARZON WATER CONSERVANCY PROJECT;
(D) AGRICULTURE, SUGAR AND SPORTS STADIUM PROJECTS,
PREVIOUSLY NEGOTIATED (REFAIR); AND
(E) PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF THREE TEN-

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KILOWATT RADIO TRANSMITTERS.

4. THE SPORTS STADIUM PROJECT IS ONE FOR WHICH EXTERNAL AID HAS LONG BEEN SOUGHT BY THE GOL, INCREASINGLY EMBARRASSED BY THE DILAPIDATION OF TUBMAN STADIUM AND THE LACK OF A MODERN SPORTS COMPLEX. AFTER YEARS OF UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AID FROM SUCH POSSIBLE DONORS AS THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, THE GOL FEELS PARTICULAR GRATITUDE TO THE PRC FOR ITS WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS PROJECT WITH ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR ENHANCED NATIONAL PRESTIGE. THE GOL FEELS PLEASED ALSO BY THE ALACRITY OF THE CHINESE FOLLOW-UP. ON JULY 15, TWO WEEKS AFTER TOLBERT'S RETURN FROM CHINA, A NINE-MAN ENGINEERING AND SURVEY TEAM ARRIVED FROM
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THE PRC TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE STADIUM.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L FINAL SECTION OF 2 MONROVIA 5234

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5. THE GOL HAS ALSO BEEN GRATIFIED BY THE JULY 9 AFP
REPORT, FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN LOCAL MEDIA, THAT
PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAD BEEN "RESPONSIBLE FOR CONFIRMATION
OF THE EASING OF CHINA'S POLICY ON RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS"
IN THAT COUNTRY THROUGH HIS MEETINGS IN NANKING IN CHINA
WITH THE TING KUANG-HSUN, PROTESTANT BISHOP
OF NANKING, AND EIGHT OTHER PROTESTANT CHURCHMEN.
CHINA EXPERTS WERE QUOTED AS STATING THAT HIS HAD BEEN
THE FIRST MEETING BETWEEN FOREIGN AND CHINESE RELIGIOUS
LEADERS ORGANIZED BY THE PRC LEADERSHIP, OR BETWEEN A
VISITING HEAD OF STATE AND A CHINESE RELIGIOUS LEADER,
SINCE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION.

6. LEST THE POPULATION DRAW UNWARRANTED INFERENCES FROM
THIS NEW CLOSENESS IN RELATIONS WITH A MAJOR COMMUNIST
STATE, GOL LEADERS HAVE BEEN MAKING IT CLEAR THAT WHAT
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MIGHT BE RIGHT FOR CHINA IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS IS NOT
NECESSARILY SUITABLE FOR LIBERIA. IN A STATEMENT MADE ON
HIS RETURN FROM CHINA, PRESIDENT TOLBERT SPOKE OF "CLOSE
PARALLELS" BETWEEN THE GOL AND THE PRC IN THE FIELD OF NATION
BUILDING BUT REMINDED HIS LISTERNERS OF THE "LIBERIAN
HERITAGE OF GOVERNMENT OF, BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE" AND OF
THE FOUNDATION IN INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY OF LIBERIAN
SOCIETY. HE CALLED LIBERIA A PIONEER FOR LIBERTY,
NATIONAL SUFFICIENCY AND PEACE. REPRESENTATIVE A.B. TOLBERT,
CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND SON OF THE PRESIDENT, ALSO IN BROADCAST REMARKS,
STATED THAT ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE GOL AND
THE PRC TO EXCHANGE TECHNOLOGY, "IT WOULD BE INCONCEIVABLE
FOR THERE TO BE AN EXCHANGE OF POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY."
HE SAID THAT THE "LIBERTY TO CHOOSE" AND THE "LIBERTY
OF EXPRESSION" CHARACTERISTIC OF LIBERIA COULD NOT EXIST
IN A COUNTRY OF 900 MILLION PEOPLE, "SO THESE PEOPLE ARE
REGIMENTED."

7. COMMENT: THE UNSPOKEN PREFERENCE OF THE GOL FOR
THE PRC OVER THE USSR EMERGES CLEARLY FROM THESE LATEST
DEVELOPMENTS IN RELATIONS WITH PEKING. IT IS REFLECTED
ALSO IN THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH THE OFFICIAL RADIO
BROADCASTS NEWS ITEMS REPORTING PRC DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT
TO OTHER NATIONS IN AFRICA. IN CONTRAST, THOSE LIBERIAN
INTELLECTUALS WHO ARE INCLINED TO MARXIST CONCEPTS TEND
TO SUPPORT THE SOVIET INTERNATIONAL LINE.
CARTER

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# Message Attributes

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